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ABSTRACT

This annual report of the Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) cites activities and services of the PTPC as authorized by Alaska Statutes, Title 14, Chapter 20, Article 5, entitled "The Professional Teaching Practices Act." In general, the Commission deals with matters of ethical and professional standards of educators and their compliance with applicable state laws and contractual obligations. The report contains a synopsis of activities from July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996. Section 1 explains the purpose, organization, and activities of the PTPC. Section 2 reviews fiscal year 1996. The Commission met three times in general session. There were 71 complaints filed and 58 cases concluded. The report lists details on the following activities and services: disciplinary action taken; background searches; appeal hearings; newsletter publication; presentations; code of ethics provision; the national clearinghouse (where any disciplinary action against an educator in any state is recorded); and handbook for Alaska educators. A table presents the financial report for fiscal year 1996, and a chart offers numbers of PTPC cases by calendar year. The report concludes with a list of PTPC staff and members as of October 1996. (SM)

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ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1996

ALASKA STATE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION (PTPC)

S1638154

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INTRODUCTION

It is with pleasure that the Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) submits to you its report for Fiscal Year 1996.

This report cites the activities and services of the PTPC as authorized by Alaska Statutes, Title 14, Chapter 20, Article 5, entitled "The Professional Teaching Practices Act."

In general, the Commission deals with matters of ethical and professional standards of educators and their compliance with applicable state laws and contractual obligations.

The PTPC is funded by program receipts from teacher certification fees, and is composed of nine educators from around the state appointed by the Governor.

This report contains a synopsis of activities of the Commission from July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996. It was prepared on behalf of the Commission by the Executive Director, Sanna Green.

THE ALASKA STATE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION

PURPOSE

The goals of the Commission are to establish and enforce standards of ethical and professional performance of educators who hold Alaska certification and to review the Department of Education's certification regulations and procedures.

ORGANIZATION

Nine members appointed by the Governor:

5 - Classroom teachers
1 - Superintendent
1 - Principal
1 - Higher Education representative
1 - Department of Education representative

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Complaints may be filed with the Commission by persons believing that a certificated educator has violated the Code of Ethics of the teaching profession; is in substantial noncompliance with the school laws of the state or the regulations of the department; has committed an act that would be a crime of moral turpitude; breached a legal contract, or has been judged incompetent. These complaints are investigated and processed in accordance with 20 AAC 10.200-10.230.

The Commission publishes the Code of Ethics and provides information to all educators in the state concerning the ethics of the profession. The PTPC provides assistance to agencies, organizations, individual educators, and members of the lay public. The PTPC's executive director also responds to inquiries regarding educator employment, certification, contractual obligations and general information requests.

The Commission reviews certification standards and proposals and makes recommendations to the State Board of Education. Recommendations are also made to school districts, professional organizations, and institutions of higher learning.

Since 1966, the PTPC has helped to resolve concerns regarding the conduct of educators and has provided an alternative to time-consuming and expensive court cases.

FY 96 IN REVIEW

From July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996:

The Commission met three times in general session.

SEVENTY-ONE COMPLAINTS FILED	The PTPC is required by both state law and its own operating procedures to investigate properly filed complaints which come before it.
FIFTY-EIGHT CASES CONCLUDED	Cases may be remanded to the complainant to be pursued through local procedures. Investigations may result in mediation, recommendations to grievants or respondent, or taken to the Commission for disciplinary decisions.
HEARING OFFICERS	Three hearing officers were contracted to assist the commission in contested cases.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Case #93-01 Accepted the memorandum of agreement in PTPC which provided that the administrator take a course in education supervision form a regionally accredited university.

Case #93-40 Revoked the certificate of Rodney Duncan for misconduct with students.

Case #95-02 Suspended the certificate of Richard Balgenorth for misconduct with students.

Case #95-12 Revoked the certificate of Barton Stromski for failure to reveal a felony conviction on his application.

Case #95-34 Denied the certificate of Sharon Barnett for unauthorized changes on the institutional recommendation which she presented with her certificate application.

Case #95-40 Revoked the certificate of Phil Giammalva for sexual misconduct with a student..

Case #95-52 Issued the respondent a warning that a sanction would be considered if the conduct was repeated.

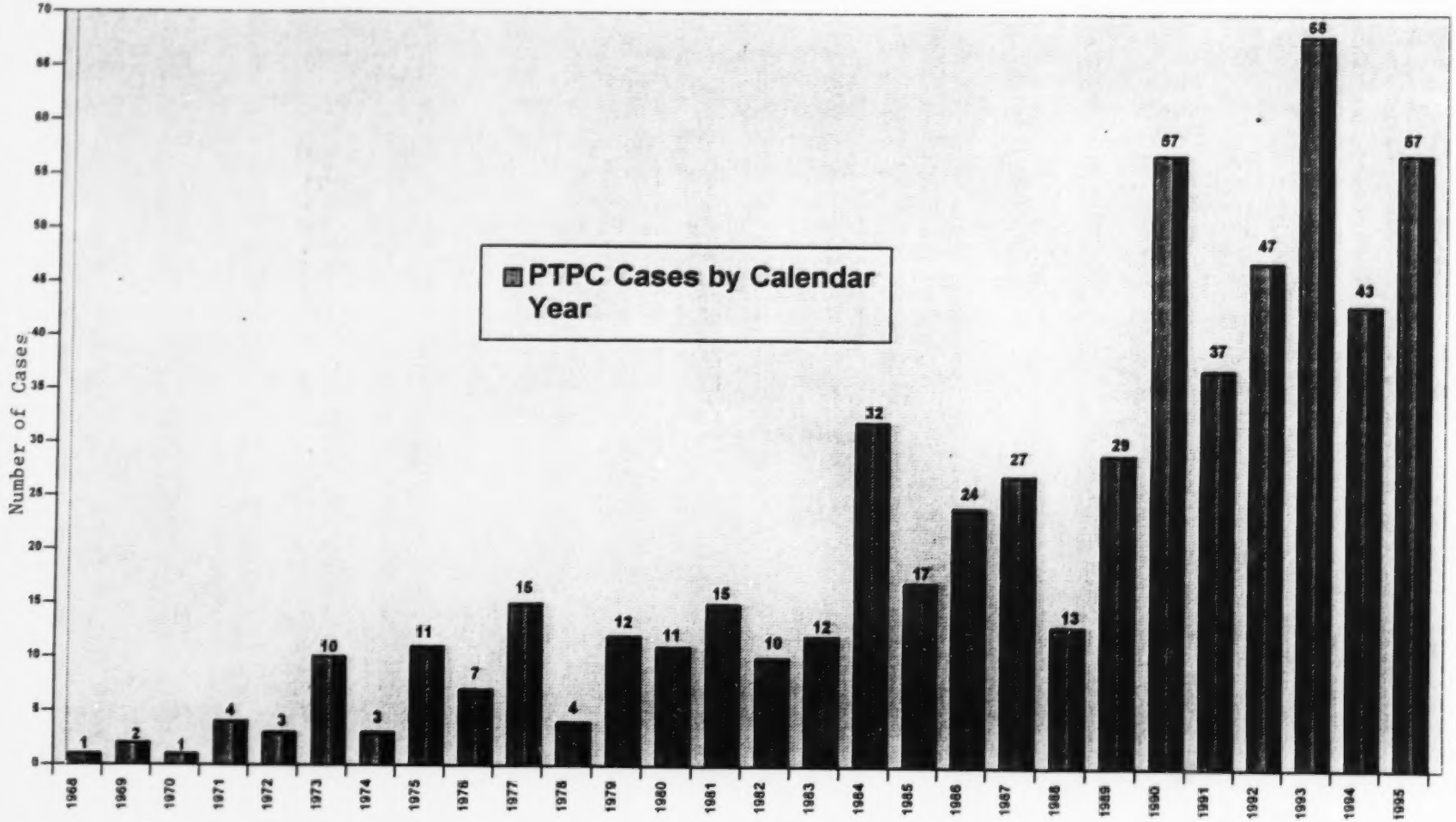
Case #93-65 Accepted the stipulated agreement which provided that Gordon Kron's certificate be on probation for 2 years, and that he be required to take training with regard to harassment.

BACKGROUND SEARCHES	Eleven of the cases involved searches of certificate applicants whose previous records indicated that their fitness to teach might be in question. Educators seeking certification in Alaska who have convictions on their record or have been disciplined in another state are investigated by the PTPC and cleared by the Commission before a teaching certificate is awarded.
APPEAL HEARINGS	Seven appeal hearings were held to review decisions of staff regarding the disposition of cases.
NEWSLETTER	A newsletter was published and delivered to all educators and other interested parties in the state.
PRESENTATIONS	A Presentation was made to graduating teacher candidates at UAA on the topic of professional ethics and the function of the PTPC.
CODE OF ETHICS	Copies of the Code of Ethics of the teaching profession is provided by the Commission to all educators seeking certification in the state of Alaska, and in response to requests from any Alaskan.
NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE	The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) maintains a clearing house where disciplinary action against an educator in any state is recorded. Names and social security numbers of all educators whose certificate has been suspended or revoked are forwarded to the Alaska certification office in Juneau. Any current Alaska certificate holder or future applicant whose name is on the list is investigated by the PTPC.
HANDBOOK FOR ALASKA EDUCATORS	A handbook which provides information on the procedures of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission is located in the central office of each educational institution in the state. Additional copies may be obtained upon request at the PTPC office.

FY 96 FINANCIAL REPORT
CLOSING BALANCE
June 30, 1996

	Authorization	Actual Disbursements	Encumbrances	Authorization Balance
Personal Services	$129,085.80	$129,085.80		$.00
Travel	$11,100.00	$16,437.66		(-$5,337.66)
Contractual	$46,014.20	$30,080.29	$6,000.00	$9,933.91
Supplies	$2,000.00	$5,192.10		(-$3,192.10)
Capital Outlay	$0.00			
Totals	$188,200.00	$180,795.85	$6,000.00	$1,404.15

(4)



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PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION
STAFF AND MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
OCTOBER 1996

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